

AF/3738
JFW



PC362.02; 004002-002643.334359v2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:) Before the Examiner
Hai H. Trieu) Alvin J. Stewart
)
Serial No. 09/943,441) Group Art Unit 3738
)
Filed: August 30, 2001) Ref. No. 4002-2643/
) PC362.02
)
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC IMPLANTS) March 8, 2005
AND METHODS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

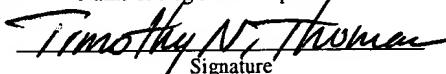
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2004, please consider the following. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on **March 8, 2005**.

Timothy N. Thomas
Name of Registered Representative


Signature

March 8, 2005

Date of Signature